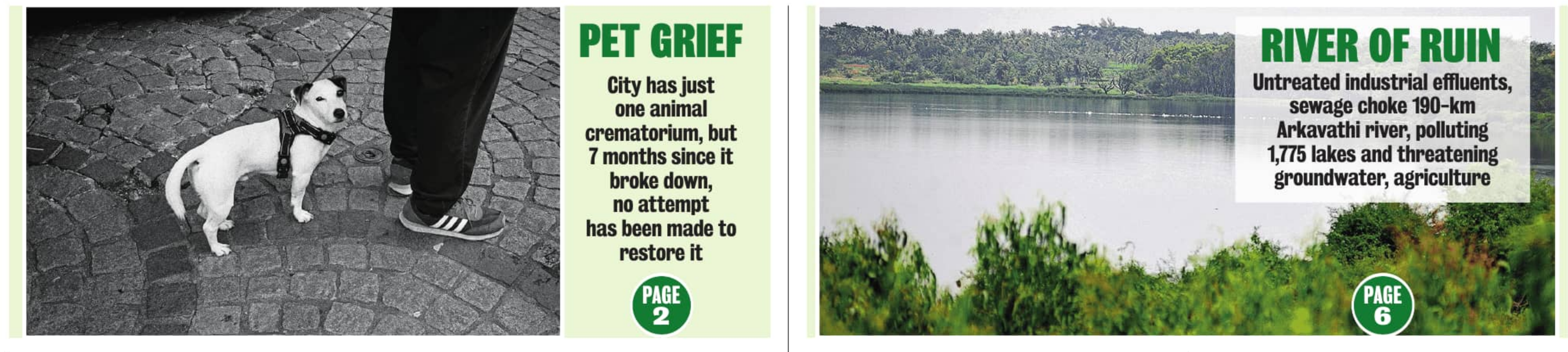




Thieves still prefer the night shift, police say they see 1 am - 4 am as best window to strike; in the day, burglars enter locked homes, using key left outside, take just small items and leave things undisturbed so nobody even knows crime was committed

SMOOTH CRIMINALS

525 night-time house break-ins and 164 daytime cases in 2025 so far

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Police data has revealed some interesting details about night-time burglaries. Officers note that thieves are increasingly targeting small, easily overlooked valuables such as single bangles, minor sums of cash, or tiny earrings, which are items homeowners often assume are misplaced rather than stolen. The break-ins generally occur in the early hours between 1 am to 4 am.

According to police data, in 2025 until October 15, nearly 525 burglary cases were reported during the night and 164 cases in the daytime, compared to 764 cases last year and 878 cases in 2023. A comparison between 2023 and 2024 shows a 13% reduction. A senior police official said that incidents involving large-scale, heavy thefts typically carried out by organised gangs have significantly decreased in recent months. According to the official, such gangs are no longer operating as actively as before.

A senior police official explained, "If an individual wants to steal, they will go looking at houses and mark their target, then in the evening again they go to the spot to understand around what time the residents switch off the lights. They wait for a while till everyone is in a



“They wait for a while till everyone is in a deep sleep and then they break into the house. They usually break in between 1 am and 4 am as everyone is fast asleep by then

—Police official

deep sleep or temporarily away and then they break into the house. They usually break in between 1 am and 4 am as every-

one is fast asleep by then.” The officer said thieves have been following the pattern. He said the main reason for daylight

burglaries is if people leave the house key somewhere. “Thieves mark the target. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

Biggest defaulter of them all

BWSSB yet to recover ₹449 crore from govt agencies, but these big defaulters don't have to face supply disconnection



Sridhar Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is sitting on a staggering ₹449 crore in unpaid water bills from government departments, civic agencies, and large establishments, even as it swiftly disconnects domestic consumers for delayed payments. This glaring disparity in action was revealed by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in a written reply to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

According to the data furnished, BWSSB maintains 11,35,889 water supply connections across Bengaluru. Of these, thousands are held by defaulters in government and institutional circles. The largest defaulters are commercial buildings, which owe ₹148.17 crore, followed by state government departments and institutions at ₹100.33 crore. Central government departments have racked up dues of ₹41.55 crore, industries owe ₹29.91 crore, the Defence Department owes ₹25.03 crore, and BBMP's own arrears stand at ₹24.71 crore.

While the board enforces strict measures **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

THINGS TO DO

01 Halloween delight

ASHARU Global, a premium preschool, is organising 'Spooktacular Halloween Party' for children and parents. The event promises a fang-tastic noon filled with laughter, costumes, music, and spooky surprises.

Where: ASHARU Global, NRI Layout;
 When: November 1, 12 pm onwards



02 Cultural celebration

Don Julio Tequila brings alive the spirit of Día de los Muertos, Mexico's 'Day of the Dead', with an immersive celebration that blends heritage, art and festivity. Raise a toast to your loved ones and remember them fondly as you revel in Mexican flavours and music by artist Rudolphe Manoukin.

Where: Bastian, Ashok Nagar;
 When: November 1, 8 pm

03 Canvas carnival

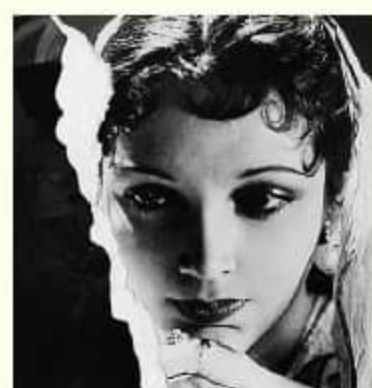
St Joseph's Boys' High School is presenting its much-awaited annual art and craft exhibition – MERAKI, The Love and Soul of Art, Season 3. This year's edition promises to be a vibrant celebration of creativity, imagination, and artistic expression, showcasing the exceptional talents of students, parents, and teachers.

Where: St Joseph's Boys' High School, Ashok Nagar;
 When: October 31, 9 am to 7 pm

04 Lights, camera, action

The Auroville Theatre Group is presenting 'Call me Devika', a play about Devika Rani, who co-founded Bombay Talkies, one of India's earliest film studios. The play is the first in a longer series exploring the legacies of forgotten women who shaped history in invisible ways.

Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield;
 When: October 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm



05 Musical escape



Adnan Sami will be taking the stage for an unforgettable performance, set to take the audience on a melodious journey.

Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield;
 When: November 9, 7 pm

City's lone cremation facility for animals lies in ruins

Citizens, in letter to Animal Husbandry Department, express frustration over lack of action to reopen crematorium, which has been non-functional since March

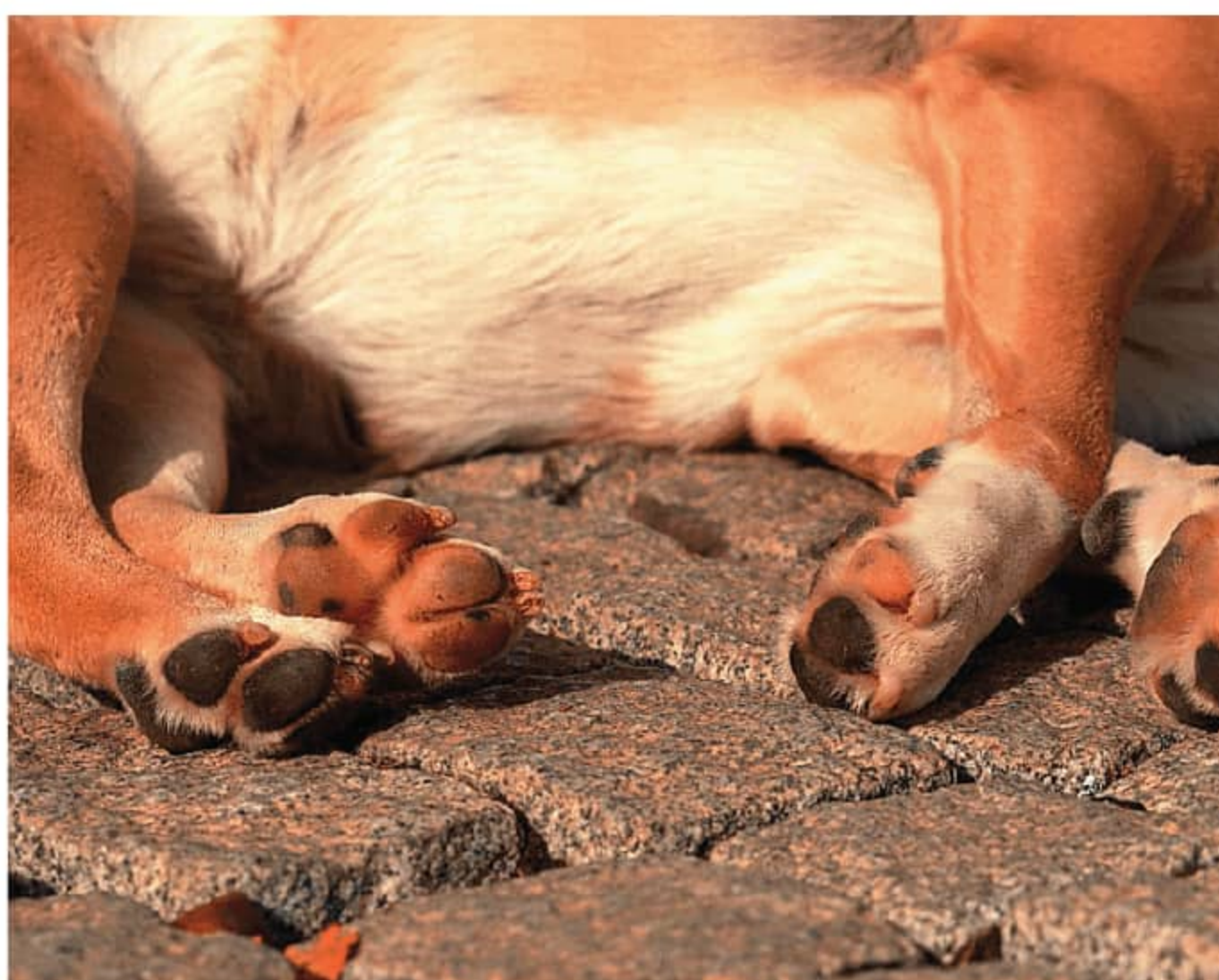
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

It has been over seven months since Bengaluru's only public animal crematorium in Sumanahalli, established a decade ago in November 2015, stopped functioning. What was once a much-needed civic facility has now turned into a massive, neglected crisis — one that affects both the city's health and its compassion.

Concerned citizens and animal welfare advocates have written to the authorities expressing frustration over the crematorium, which has remained non-functional since March this year. The facility first shut down due to an electrical fault and later suffered the collapse of its chimney.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, on behalf of the citizens and animal welfare community of Bengaluru, wrote a letter to the Animal Husbandry Department, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, DK Shivakumar, and the Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, highlighting the issue. In the letter, she highlighted that for seven long months, the essential civic amenity has lain in ruins. She pointed out that while animal lovers have scrambled to respond, landfills continue to fill with rotting carcasses. She opined that despite repeated follow-ups, letters, and reminders, the situation remains a textbook case of bureaucratic paralysis. "While we acknowledge that a tender for a new chimney has been released, thanks to the efforts of Smt Uma Mahadevan, the core issue remains: two criti-



Animal lovers say while some human crematoriums might accept animals, but there is no clarity leaving citizens confused

GBA urged to issue clear public notice outlining temporary arrangements for animal carcass disposal, with details of designated facilities, contact persons, procedures, and subsidised charges

cal repairs are stuck between two different departments, with a tragic lack of ownership and coordination. The result is an endless cycle of 'passing the buck', while the city suffers," she said, in the letter.

The citizens have urged the GBA to take immediate action by directing the engineering and maintenance departments to coordinate and ensure that the animal crematorium is fully repaired and made operational within a clearly defined and publicly announced timeline. They have also demanded that a dedicated nodal officer be appointed to take complete responsibility for the facility's operation and maintenance,

eliminating any scope for inter-departmental blame or delay. In addition, they have called for transparency regarding interim measures, asking the GBA to issue a clear public notice outlining the temporary arrangements for animal carcass disposal, with details of designated facilities, contact persons, procedures, and subsidised charges.

Animal lovers disclosed that officials had mentioned that some human crematoriums might accept animals, but there is no clarity on the procedure, cost, or contact persons, leaving citizens more confused. "The reality is that most people, unable to afford the exorbitant Rs

10,000 to Rs 15,000 demanded by private burials (compared to the crematorium's Rs 500 fee), are forced to resort to unscientific burials or, worse, dumping in landfills and garbage dumps," said Rajagopal, adding that with no viable alternatives, animal shelters, clinics, hospitals are being forced to dispose carcasses in landfills.

Dr Ashwath Ramji from the Cunningham Canine Squad noted that the crematorium is the only facility serving the entire city, and everyone depends on it. He said with the crematorium shut, people are being forced to turn to human burial grounds to cremate their pets. "Not everyone can afford the price. When a pet passes away, it feels like losing a child, and having to hold them in your arms, not knowing where to cremate them, is an incredibly painful experience," he said. He said that beyond pet animals, stray animals that die on the roads are also affected. "Earlier, they were taken to the crematorium, but now their bodies end up in landfills or are left to decompose," he said.

Recently, during the DCM's visit to Cubbon Park, the issue was highlighted. However, despite assurances, animal lovers are still unsure if the issue will be taken up seriously, as it has not been attended to for seven months.

Citizens had even requested a 24/7 service and three additional crematoriums to meet the needs of a growing, pet-loving city. While the approval for three new facilities a year ago was a welcome step, the pace of their implementation has itself been a source of great disappointment.

Minimum marks in theory exam made mandatory for 2nd PUC

Following the government's recent decision to reduce the pass percentage for SSLC and II PUC exams to 33 per cent, the Karnataka School Examination and Evaluation Board has issued a circular clarifying the new evaluation norms. The revised rule applies to regular, repeat, and private candidates, requiring them to score at least 206 marks out of 625 (overall 33 per cent) to pass. However, the board has made it clear that students must also secure a minimum score in the theory exam to qualify.

For subjects with practical exams, students must score at least 21 marks in the written test, while for subjects without practicals, they must secure a minimum of 24 marks. Internal or practical marks alone will

not count toward passing unless the minimum written marks are achieved. In subjects without practicals, the question paper will carry a maximum of 80 marks, of which 24 marks are mandatory to pass. The 20 internal marks have no minimum pass limit. For science and technical subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Electronics, and Home Science, the written exam will be for 70 marks, and the practical for 30 marks — with a minimum of 21 marks required in the written part to be considered pass.

Students who miss or score poorly in the practical exam will not be allowed a re-test, except those who are absent for all subjects in both written and practical exams. —BMB

Stray dog blinded after being shot at

In a shocking act of cruelty, a four-year-old male dog was shot by a resident on Assaye Road, Ulsoor, causing severe head injuries and permanent loss of eyesight. The horrifying incident was captured on video, showing the dog peacefully lying on the footpath before a loud gunshot rang out, followed by the dog's screams of pain.

Residents who rushed out after hearing the sound, found the dog bleeding from the head. Animal activist Vikash Bafna immediately reached the spot, rescued the injured animal, and took it to the Pulakeshinagar Police Station, where a First Information Report (FIR) was filed. It is suspected that one of the residents in the area fired the shot.

The dog was later taken for treatment to Friends for Animals Trust, an animal

welfare organisation run by Bafna. After an examination, the veterinarian confirmed that the dog had lost its eyesight due to the gunshot.

Bafna said that when the dog was shot and started screaming in pain, another man was picking up stones and hitting the dog. "People started saying the dog was aggressive, but after we rescued him, he has been so friendly. We were feeding him by hand, and he responds with so much trust," he said.

He said that the dog has to undergo surgery. "When we give anaesthesia, his breathing rate increases, so we are waiting until he becomes stronger. One pellet is lodged in his head and the other in his neck. The pellet in the brain has damaged his eyesight," he explained. —BMB



The injured dog continues to receive medical care

Roomie turns murderer over food dispute

A 40-year-old labourer was allegedly murdered by his roommate on Monday night in Navarathna Agrahara, Chikkajala, following a dispute over eating non-vegetarian food during a festival. The deceased, Shambhu Thanti, a native of Bihar, had reportedly been observing Chhath Puja.

Police said Shambhu and the accused, Rajesh from Assam, had been living together in a labour shed for three years while working at a building under construction. Monday marked the main day of the festival.

After completing the rituals, Shambhu stepped out briefly. During this time, Rajesh allegedly brought non-vegetarian food from outside and consumed it in their shared room. When Shambhu returned, he confronted Rajesh, leading to a heated argument. In a fit of rage, Rajesh is said to have assaulted Shambhu with an iron rod and a wooden stick found in the shed. Shambhu sustained severe injuries to his head and body and died on the spot.

Rajesh fled but was tracked down and arrested by Chikkajala police. A case of murder has been registered, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Fatal collision after car chase: Road rage suspected

A 24-year-old delivery agent was killed and his friend injured in a suspected road rage incident after a couple allegedly chased and rammed their car into a motorcycle in JP Nagar late on October 25. The incident occurred around 11:30 pm near house number 101/36, 1st Cross, Sriram Layout, JP Nagar 7th Stage, under the jurisdiction of JP Nagar Traffic Police.

The deceased, Darshan Vimbanthan, a Zepto delivery agent, was riding a two-wheeler with his colleague Varun as a pillion rider when the bike reportedly brushed against the side mirror of a car ahead.

The mirror broke on impact, triggering anger in the occupants, identified as Manoj Kumar, a Kalaripayattu (martial arts) instructor, and Aarti Sharma. Initially, a case of accident was registered against an unknown vehicle.

However, during the investigation, traffic police reviewing CCTV footage discovered that the car had taken a U-turn and chased the two-wheeler for nearly two kilometres before intentionally ramming it from behind.

The impact threw both riders off the bike, killing Darshan on the spot. Varun survived with injuries and is undergoing treatment.

Footage from Nataraja Layout and South City Road also showed a prior altercation, confirming that the collision was deliberate. Following the revelation, traffic police alerted the law and order police. The case, first registered under the IMV Act and IPC sections based on a complaint by a resident, has now been transferred to Puttenahalli Police Station.

Police have booked the accused for murder and are conducting a further investigation to trace and arrest the couple. **BMB**

Begur thieves caught: five burglaries solved

The Begur police have arrested two habitual offenders involved in at least five housebreaks reported in and around the city. The accused, Shanth Kumar and Jnanaprakasham, allegedly broke into a house in Vishwapriya Layout on June 18, stealing gold and silver articles.

Police traced Shanth Kumar near Muneshwara Layout and later arrested Jnanaprakasham near Begur Lake.

Stolen items were recovered from six jewellery shops.

Both are habitual offenders who travel by train, target locked houses, and commit crimes at night.

The Begur police inspector said their arrest has cracked five housebreak cases across Begur, Hoskote, and Chikkaballapur police station limits. Police identified the duo via CCTV despite attempts to hide their faces and avoid using mobile phones. **BMB**

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House help confesses to ₹51.4 lakh heist

The JP Nagar police have arrested a housemaid for stealing gold, silver ornaments and cash worth ₹51.4 lakh from her employer's house, solving a theft reported earlier this month.

The complainant discovered the theft on October 11, after noticing that jewellery, silverware and cash worth ₹21 lakh were missing from a cupboard. The family grew suspi-

cious of their long-time domestic help, who had not turned up for work for nearly 20 days.

Acting on credible information, police traced and detained the accused. During interrogation, she confessed to the theft and revealed that she had pledged the stolen valuables.

Police later recovered 458 grams of gold and 3.868 kilograms of silver articles from the shops between October 12 and 18. The accused was remanded to judicial custody. **BMB**

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Locals challenge BDA's bid to commercialise civic plot

Residents demands transparency, reject profit-driven redevelopment scheme

Y Maheswara Reddy
 c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Sadashivanagar continue to oppose the Bengaluru Development Authority's (BDA) proposal to demolish the existing shopping complex and construct a new commercial complex in its place. They have demanded that the BDA shelve its plan, arguing that the site is meant for civic amenities and not for commercial purposes.

The Sadashivanagar Residents Welfare Association (SRWA) has filed a writ petition in the High Court seeking a direction to the BDA to stop its plan, maintaining that no commercial building can be allowed unless it directly benefits the community.

Bangalore Mirror had earlier published a story titled A Complex Issue on November 5, 2022, highlighting how the BDA's commercial complex at 1st Cross, RMV Extension, had become an eyesore for residents of the posh neighbourhood.



The CA site on 9th Main Road, Raj Mahal Vilas Extension, Sadashivanagar

Bangalore Mirror had earlier published a story titled A Complex Issue on November 5, 2022, highlighting how the BDA's commercial complex at 1st Cross, RMV Extension, Sadashivanagar, had become an eyesore for residents of the posh neighbourhood

Sadashivanagar, had become an eyesore for residents of the posh neighbourhood. Another story, Cultural Centre: Yes; Shopping Area: No, published on July 6, 2024, detailed residents' opposition to BDA's plan to

construct a new commercial complex. Residents said they understood the need for BDA to generate revenue but urged it to consider the project's impact on the local community, especially given the site's prox-

imity to residential areas.

The BDA's proposal to redevelop the Sadashivanagar complex is part of its larger plan to revitalise its commercial properties — including those in Indiranagar, Koramangala, HSR Layout, RT Nagar, Austin Town, and Vijayanagar — through a public-private partnership model. The move has triggered stronger demands for community consultation and greater transparency from residents.

"The Civic Amenity site where the erstwhile BDA Mini Market stood, under Vishwarama Layout, is meant for residents — not for commercial exploitation. Converting it into office spaces is a clear misuse of public land and a violation of its intended purpose. Such a move will bring relentless traffic, noise, and disruption, making life unbearable for those living opposite. Residents strongly object to this redevelopment and demand that the site be preserved for genuine community use," said Sushma Albal, a resident living in the vicinity.

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Parking chaos BTM Layout



Cars parked perpendicularly outside a BTM Layout store extend nearly four feet onto the road — parallel parking could easily prevent obstruction.

Footpath danger Gandhi Bhavan



The damaged footpath near Gandhi Bhavan poses a serious hazard to pedestrians, forcing many to walk on the busy road.

Bureaucratic delays worsen senior citizens' plight



Helpline complaint acknowledged, but ground action remains invisible

The elderly residents of Wesley Old Age Home on Benson Road, Benson Town, have been suffering for over a month due to a persistent water leak outside their gate that has turned the stretch into a muddy, waterlogged mess. The issue began after the road was dug up to lay new water pipes, but despite repeated complaints to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), it remains unresolved.

"The stench and stagnant water make it unbearable for the elderly residents to even step outside. It's a health hazard," said a staff member. Locals said vehicles often get stuck in the slush, making the area unsafe for motorists and pedestrians.

Despite a formal complaint (No. 242761) and several follow-ups, the problem continues. Residents have urged BWSSB to act immediately and restore the damaged stretch without further delay. —BMB

Walkway? more like driveway in disguise



Locals allege BBMP, traffic police ignored repeated complaints

Encroachments on footpaths in Jayanagar have become a growing concern for residents and pedestrians, as shrinking walkways are forcing people to step onto busy roads, risking their safety. A glaring example is near No. 124, 7th B Main, 4th Block, where a private property has extended its compound wall and built brick structures with fencing, leaving no space for pedestrians.

"Pedestrians have no option but to walk on the road. It's extremely dangerous, especially for senior citizens and children," said Ravi Kumar, a resident. Another commuter added, "Almost every street in Jayanagar has some form of encroachment, but authorities seem indifferent."

Despite repeated complaints, residents say the BBMP and traffic police have failed to act. They urge officials to clear encroachments and restore pedestrian access immediately. —BMB

Maheshwar Rao demands quick fix for Rajkumar Road



To improve rainwater flow, the civic body is also installing a 1,000 mm pipeline

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to speed up the ongoing white-topping work on Dr Rajkumar Road and ensure early completion. Following Bangalore Mirror's October 25, 2025 report, Rao inspected the 700-meter stretch from Navarang Theatre to 10th Cross Junction and issued strict instructions. BWSSB is currently executing drinking water and drainage works, including chamber installations. Rao also ordered completion of a 1,000 mm rainwater pipeline and cross culverts within 15 days. Traffic has been restricted, with officials instructed to minimise congestion and enforce safety measures. —BMB

TTMC's crumbling roads irk daily travellers



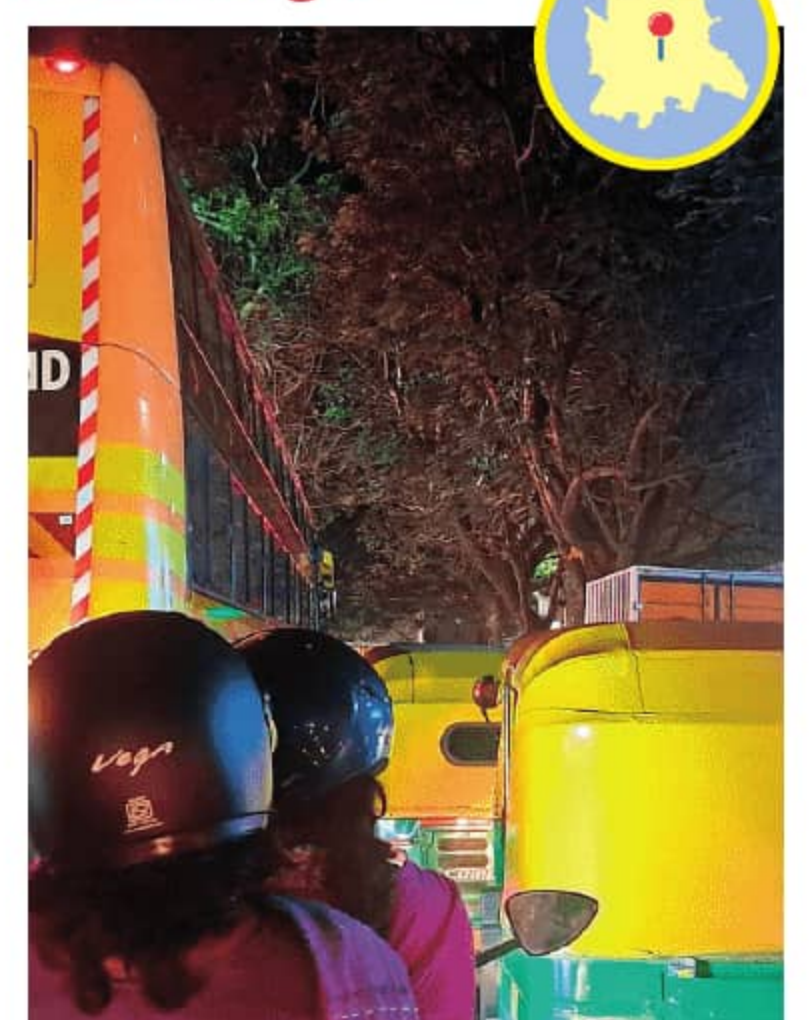
Uneven roads slow traffic, worsen air quality

Commuters using the Banashankari TTMC have raised serious concerns over the poor condition of internal roads, riddled with potholes and covered in thick layers of dust. The uneven surface not only slows vehicle movement but also worsens air quality, making it difficult for passengers and shopkeepers to breathe properly.

"This is supposed to be a well-maintained public transport hub, but the condition inside the TTMC is worse than the main roads outside," said a commuter. Another resident added, "The potholes are deep and dusty — every passing bus leaves behind a choking cloud."

Local traders and commuters have urged BBMP and BMTC to take immediate steps to repair the internal roads and ensure consistent maintenance to make Banashankari TTMC safe, clean, and commuter-friendly once again. —BMB

Road obstruction Gandhinagar



Private buses near Pothis in Gandhinagar cause daily peak-hour chaos by blocking the main road while picking up passengers.

103 traffic-blocking bus stops to be relocated

If you've ever found yourself stuck behind a BMTC bus right at a traffic signal, relief might finally be on the way. The Bengaluru Traffic Police, along with BMTC, have launched a major initiative to relocate 103 unscientifically placed bus stops that have been clogging some of the city's busiest junctions.

Officials say the move could bring a visible reduction in traffic congestion

across Bengaluru — especially at hot-spots such as Silk Board Junction, MG Road, and Chinnaswamy Stadium, where daily gridlocks have become routine.

When one bus stops, everyone stops

With a population of nearly 1.4 crore and over one crore vehicles on the road, Bengaluru's traffic situation has

reached breaking point. Every day, lakhs of vehicles enter the city's main arteries, facing long waits at signals made worse by buses halting just a few metres away. Officials said buses halting near signals trigger bottlenecks even after lights change.

To tackle the issue, the police and BMTC conducted a joint survey and identified 103 locations where bus stops will be shifted between 50 and

300 metres away from traffic signals. The goal is to give buses enough room to load and unload passengers without blocking vehicles behind them. Stops near junctions and U-turns will be moved further away to prevent blockage.

Relocation will cover over a dozen areas including Yelahanka, Mahadevapura, Whitefield, and Jayanagar, with major hotspots at Silk Board Junction, MG Road, and Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Push for implementation

A formal proposal has been sent to the Greater Bengaluru Authority to approve the relocation. Halting buses near signals causes gridlocks. Officials say the move will ease congestion, reduce signal delays, and make commuting safer.

"For a city that spends more time honking than moving, this shift could finally give Bangaloreans a smoother ride," added a police official. —BMB

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Tunnel may prove root cause of Lalbagh trees' distress

Trees are not being cut, but botanists warn if tunnels being created between 50 & 100 ft, roots of old trees could be impacted

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the State Government has informed the High Court that no trees inside Lalbagh will be cut for construction of the proposed Twin Tunnel Road project, experts say the current proposed depth of the tunnels will likely harm vegetation above ground.

According to information shared by the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), the 16.7-kilometre-long tunnel road will pass beneath Lalbagh with two tunnels, two long ramps, and a massive ventilation shaft. Each tunnel, 50 feet in diameter, will run for about 700 metres within Lalbagh at depths ranging from 50 to 150 feet below the surface. Both ramps will slope upward toward the ground level.

Nearly 23,800 square metres—almost six acres—of Lalbagh land will be acquired along the 1.1-kilometre stretch of Siddapura Road between Ashoka Pillar and Marigowda Junction. Experts warn that this could have serious implications for Lalbagh's heritage trees.

A senior city-based botanist, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "Root systems of heritage trees of certain species can extend nearly 100 feet below the ground. If the tunnels were being created beyond 100 feet, the impact would be minimal. But at depths between 50 and 100 feet, the roots of old trees could be severely affected."

Dr Munirajappa, retired botanist from Bangalore University, said the project should be moved out of Lalbagh entirely. "The twin tunnel road project must proceed in a meaningful way. If not planned and executed carefully, it will damage the root systems of several trees and harm vegetation above ground. Infrastructure



Nearly 23,800 square metres—almost six acres—of Lalbagh land will be acquired for the Twin Tunnel Road project

Experts note that while younger trees may survive, Lalbagh is home to hundreds of heritage trees more than a century old. Their root systems extend in unpredictable directions so tunnelling could disrupt them

development should happen, but not at the cost of Lalbagh's ecology. The work will also threaten the historic Lalbagh rock," he said.

Experts note that while younger trees may survive, Lalbagh is home to hundreds of heritage trees more than a century old. Their root systems extend in unpredictable directions, and tunnelling at shallow depths could disrupt them. "Without a detailed study on how such digging would affect the green cover, the project remains risky," the botanist added.

They also pointed out that the Bengaluru Metro, which has underground sections, typically runs beneath existing roads—unlike the proposed tunnels that would cut through a botanical garden. The absence of an environmental impact assessment specifically studying the

effects on tree roots makes it impossible to predict the full extent of the damage.

B-SMILE has maintained that the project complies with all necessary regulations and environmental standards. Officials have stated that the shaft location within Lalbagh has been "carefully planned to ensure minimal environmental impact," in line with other urban infrastructure projects such as the metro. The agency said the design process was undertaken "with due sensitivity toward ecological and heritage preservation."

Ironically, B-SMILE's justification for proceeding with the project includes the claim that Lalbagh Botanical Garden is not listed as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) under notifications issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

BTC rope in Zavaray to sponsor all classics Stage set for B'lore Winter season

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Bangalore Turf Club has cracked the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Zavaray Poonawalla, head honcho of the famed Poonawalla Stud Farm and the biggest promoter of racing in India has sealed the deal with BTC, Poonawalla sponsoring all the summer and winter classics at this premier racing centre for the next three years. Come July 2026, the Bangalore summer Derby will be the richest and most glamorous event in the Indian racing calendar, the blue riband of the season offering a whopping five crore in stakes. "The 40 percent GST slab has hit racing hard and the onus is now on the promoters to provide the required support to the clubs. I have taken the lead again and hopefully many others will join in to facilitate the clubs in their endeavour to conduct the sport in a clean and transparent fashion," said Zavaray adding that desperate cost cutting measures will not help, be it reduction in stake money and cutting down on the finances required to maintain and upgrade the facilities. "The idea is to not to lose hope. The racing fraternity now needs to explore more revenue generating avenues and keep pace with the changing scenario," said Zavaray.



to invest in the game despite the fact that the state government is firm that the Club needs to relocate in the next 2-3 years, in all probability to Kunigal.

Zavaray made no secret of his opinion that racing at BTC is good and the proactive approach and enthusiasm of the mandarins of the club is heartwarming.

"I gel well with the BTC committee and I can't say no to any request from Ramesh Manjunath and here I'm happily sealing all the deals," said Zavaray.

Former chairman Ramesh Manjunath when asked if the BTC has gained the license required to start the winter season on Saturday, Nov 1, made it clear that following a couple of minor changes in the resolutions framed by the club, the government will grant the license and the thunder of hooves will provide a lyrical ring on Saturday.

The first classic of the season, the 1000 Guineas will be held on Friday, Dec 12, while the blue riband of the season, the Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore Derby is scheduled to be staged on the Republic Day.

61 jockeys including a dozen claiming allowance have been issued 'A' license and 64 jockeys including eight apprentice jockeys have been granted 'B' license. In all 100 jockeys will parade their skills at this centre in winter.

The Board Of Appeal (BOA) has been reconstituted and Vivek Ubhayakar will head the board. The other members of BOA are: Y Jagannath, Satish N Gowda, Ranjan Chona and K Jayaram.

The Rajyotsava Cup on the opening day is certain to attract a quality field taking into account that more than 500 horses which appear fit at this campus are gearing up to gallop to fame. The track is in ship-shape conditions and all the professionals at this centre satisfied with the facilities at BTC are ready and willing to strike it rich first under the cool winter sun.

Contamination pushes Arkavathi river into D-Grade category

Untreated industrial effluents and sewage choke the 190-km river, polluting 1,775 lakes and threatening groundwater, agriculture, and local ecosystems

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Once a pristine tributary of the Cauvery, the Arkavathi River, which originates in Nandi Hills and flows through Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts, has now been graded "D" by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), reflecting alarming levels of contamination and ecological neglect. Recent studies reveal that 1,775

lakes within the river's catchment have been polluted as untreated industrial effluents and sewage continue to be discharged into feeder lakes and canals. The 190-km-long river passes through Doddaballapura, Rajanukunte, Shivapura, and other towns where solid waste dumping, plastic clogging, and open burning near lake beds have worsened the ecological decline. In several areas, industrial waste is directly released into water channels, leading to fish deaths, foul odour, and discoloured water.



Solid waste dumping and open burning near lake beds worsen contamination, spreading toxins across farmlands and local groundwater reserves

Experts warn that the groundwater table is being severely contaminated, posing a threat to agriculture, fisheries, and local livelihoods. They note that unscientific desilting and construction

FILE PHOTO

Once a lifeline from Nandi Hills to Cauvery, the Arkavathi now suffers from severe contamination, illegal dumping, and encroachments. Experts urge urgent desilting, sewage treatment, and restoration to revive the dying basin

within buffer zones have further disrupted the ecosystem. Environmentalists stress that all sewage entering the lakes must undergo tertiary treatment, and encroachments on feeder canals must be cleared immediately.

"The Arkavathi, a vital tributary of the Cauvery, needs urgent protection through desilting, waste removal, and awareness drives," said Chidanandamurthy, President of the

Arkavathi Protection Campaign.

Officials from the Minor Irrigation Department said steps are underway to clean manholes and treat sewage before discharge. Experts have urged the government to prioritize restoration projects, install new treatment plants, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and prevent groundwater pollution—essential measures to revive and sustain the dying Arkavathi basin ecosystem for future generations.

'Claims in suicide note not true'

Petitioners dismiss authenticity of suicide note by deceased Ola employee, claim media coverage allegedly instigated by complainant has damaged company's stock value

Ola Electric Technologies Private Limited CEO Bhavish Aggarwal told the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday that the suicide note allegedly left behind by the deceased employee K Aravind was "not true."

Aggarwal and others appeared before the court seeking to quash an FIR registered against them on charges of abetment to suicide under Sections 108 (Abetment of Suicide) and 3(5) (Common Intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The FIR, filed on October 6, followed a complaint by Ashwin Kannan, brother of the deceased, who alleged that Aravind took his life after consuming poison due to workplace harassment and denial of salary dues.

During the hearing before Justice Mohammad Nawaz, senior advocate MS Shyamsundar, representing the petitioners, said, "Lordships have repeatedly held that death notes are not gospel truths. I have a strong doubt that it is Mr Prasanna's client (the complainant) who is the narrator of this death note."

The petitioners' counsel also complained that media coverage allegedly instigated by the complainant had affected Ola's stock value.

In response, advocate P Prasanna Kumar, appearing for the complainant, said, "Is he arguing an injunction suit? The issue here is the cause of death, not media behaviour."

The court observed that the investigation must be conducted fairly, directing that the police shall not harass



the petitioners "under the pretext of investigation."

The bench extended its earlier interim protection and directed the petitioners to cooperate with the probe. The matter will be taken up again for hearing on November 17.

Reply sought over unequal fund allocation

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the state government on a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging discriminatory allocation of funds under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) to constituencies represented by ruling party legislators.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha passed the order while hearing the plea filed by BJP MLA Jagadeesh Shivayya Gudagunti. The petition contends that the distribution of funds under the CMIDP violates Article 14 of

the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

According to the petitioner's counsel, the CMIDP was introduced in the 2025-26 State Budget. Under the scheme, the government has allegedly allotted Rs 50 crore each to constituencies represented by ruling party MLAs, while those represented by opposition legislators have received only Rs 25 crore.

Gudagunti's plea argues that such disparity in allocation not only contravenes the fundamental rights of equality but also runs contrary to the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined under Articles 38 and 39 of the Constitution, which direct the State to promote social and economic justice.

Seeking a mandamus from the court, the petitioner has requested that the Jamkhandi Assembly constituency in Bagalkot district—represented by him—be granted Rs 50 crore, in parity with other constituencies in the district that are represented by ruling party MLAs.

As an interim measure, the plea also urges the court to direct the State to reconsider the petitioner's representation dated September 9, 2025, and release Rs 50 crore from the CMIDP funds to Jamkhandi pending final adjudication of the case.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on January 31, 2026.

— BMB

INBRIEF

Incentives to woo textile investors leaving Bangladesh

With several textile entrepreneurs seeking to relocate operations from Bangladesh due to the prevailing economic instability there, the Karnataka government is planning a series of special incentive packages to attract them to the state. Textile Minister Shivanand

Patil directed officials to study the benefits and concessions offered to textile industries in states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, and to draft a proposal accordingly. He said the proposal would soon be discussed with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for quick approval. "The government must act swiftly on its promises; any delay could push investors toward neighbouring states," Patil warned, emphasising that the textile sector holds major potential for employment generation.

—BMB

Intensified plastic checks

Vehicles passing through forest routes in Karnataka will now face two-layered plastic inspections, and those carrying or discarding single-use plastic items will be fined. The move comes as part of a stricter 'No Plastic in Forests' drive initiated by Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, who directed officials to intensify surveillance and penalise violators.

During a review meeting at Bandipur Tiger Reserve, the minister instructed that plastic checks at forest entry points alone are not enough — fines must be imposed on those found carrying or throwing plastic inside forest areas. Under the new enforcement plan, vehicles will first be warned if plastic is found during inspections. On repeat offences, fines will be levied.

—BMB

CRIME FILES

Youth robbed of ₹30,000 after withdrawing cash from ATM

A 22-year-old man was robbed of Rs 30,000 in cash by three unidentified assailants near Bhaskar Nagar, Avalahalli, on Monday night, shortly after he withdrew the money from an ATM. According to the complaint filed at Talaghattapura Police Station, the incident took

place between 9 pm and 9.20 pm on Tuesday. The victim, identified as Syed Shabaz, was returning home on his two-wheeler, after withdrawing cash from the ATM when three men intercepted him, threatened him, and assaulted him with a plastic pipe before snatching the cash from his trouser pocket.

Based on his complaint, police have registered a case under Section 309(4) (robbery involving violence or intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation to trace the accused. Further investigations are underway.

—BMB

Public prosecutor booked after being caught in bribery sting by Lokayukta

The Lokayukta officials on Wednesday caught a woman public prosecutor red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 1,100 in exchange for an official favour.

The accused, KS Latha, public prosecutor at the 45th City Civil and

Sessions Court (CCH-46), Bengaluru, was trapped following a complaint filed with the Lokayukta. According to officials, Latha had allegedly demanded money from a litigant, assuring that she would not object to his bail

application in court. Acting on the tip-off, a team laid a trap and caught her while receiving the bribe. She has been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act and taken into custody for further investigation.

—BMB

Man creates chaos inside Marathahalli temple, caught and thrashed by locals

A 45-year-old man was caught after he entered the Venugopalaswamy Temple in Devarabisanahalli, Marathahalli, shouting religious slogans and allegedly attempting to pull down the idol inside the sanctum on Tuesday evening.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Kabir, a local cobbler running a footwear repair shop in the area, was seen earlier near a medical shop striking a photo of Lord Ganesha

with a stick and shouting slogans. When confronted by residents, he ran into the nearby temple, wearing slippers, and created a commotion inside the sanctum. He was also carrying a small bottle containing an oil-like liquid. Shocked temple staff and devotees overpowered Kabir, tied him to a roadside tree, and thrashed him before handing him over to the police. He sustained minor injuries and was later admitted to a private

hospital. The Marathahalli police, who rushed to the spot, seized the slippers, stones, and the bottle from the scene. Police said an inquiry is underway and further details will be known after the accused's recovery. Meanwhile, locals alleged that Kabir was a migrant worker involved in creating disturbances in the area and demanded strict action from the authorities. Further investigations are underway.

—BMB

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In the dead of the night

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They observe houses where both are working and children go to school. It is usually in such households that sometimes the key is left near a shoe stand, under the flower pot, or under the steps etc."

A police official told BM that many cases are going unreported as people don't realise they have been robbed. "These thieves don't target large amounts or lots of gold; instead, they go for smaller items like two bangles or something like that. These robbers do their work so neatly that no one will understand that they have been robbed. They use the keys kept under the mat or flower pot, and once they enter, they know where the cupboard key is. Owners of the house leave it on the cupboard, or they lock it and keep it on top of the cupboard or in the next cupboard under clothes. If it's not found in the cupboard, they search in the kitchen. So they know all the hiding spots now. They steal and leave all the things as they found them. When the

owner comes back in the evening, all the things are in their place so there is no doubt. Only if the lock is broken, does the house owner realise they have been robbed or else they will feel the valuable was misplaced," said the official.

According to police sources, several residential pockets with a highly dense population have emerged as hotspots, with burglars striking when households are either asleep or temporarily away. The incidents, though scattered, reflect a similar modus operandi: intruders target houses with easy access points, break open doors or window grills, and flee with valuables such as gold ornaments, cash, mobile phones, and electronic devices.

Another senior police official explained, "There is no specific timing for a robbery. They strike whenever people are away, and homeowners usually realise it only when they return to town. In a few cases, owners lock up for the night and don't even realise they have been robbed, but only when they find things missing do they realise it."

BWSSB's operating expenditure per month is Rs 239.4 crore

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on ordinary citizens — including disconnection notices and cutting supply for non-payment — there appears to be no such aggressive recovery drive against these big-ticket defaulters.

In his reply, Shivakumar said BWSSB charges interest on the outstanding bills of all categories of consumers and sends letters periodically to the departments concerned. However, he did not mention any instances of water supply being cut to government agencies or large establishments. The admission raises questions over why strict disconnection rules apply only to individual households and not to the biggest defaulters, despite their dues being high enough to finance months of BWSSB's operating expenses.

As of July 31, 2025, BWSSB's monthly operating expenditure is ₹239.4 crore. Power charges alone account for ₹124 crore, much of it going towards pumping and treatment, including the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme (CWSS) Stage-V, which is currently delivering 100–



150 MLD against its full capacity of 775 MLD. Operations and maintenance, including servicing 110 villages, cost ₹41 crore, while ₹20.5 crore is spent on human resources and ₹20 crore on debt services, DKS said. These figures exclude government loan repayments, provisions, and depreciation, which are estimated at another ₹100 crore every month.

Measures to maintain water supply

Defending BWSSB's service record, the Deputy CM said domestic consumers who pay regularly are

prioritised for uninterrupted supply.

"Key measures include commissioning Cauvery Stage-V in September 2024 to supply 110 villages, launching the Mobile Cauvery Project in May 2025 for app-based tanker deliveries, providing free tanker water to slums and disrupted areas, replacing 73.5 sq. km of old pipelines in key localities, installing booster pumps for high-rises, and maintaining BWSSB and BBMP borewells to boost supply," he said.

He said that awareness drives through newspapers, radio, television, and social media continue to urge citizens to use water judiciously. Apartment complexes are required to install Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and reuse treated water for purposes such as toilet flushing, gardening, and vehicle washing.

Raj K, an activist said, "While these operational measures may improve service delivery, the stark difference in enforcement between ordinary households and powerful government defaulters begs a question on the fairness of BWSSB's approach."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Afeefa khanum Murtuza Khan W/o Mohammed Ehatasham R/o No 328/7, 13th main khasim khan street, Hbr Layout Bangalore 560045 have changed my name Afeefa Khanum for all purposes

I, Sureshakumara K R s/o Narayana Swamy K R/o No. 1839 3rd block, sir MV Lyt, sonnenahalli ullalu Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to suresh Kumar K N, Affidavit Dt.29/10/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luur

I Abhinav Chandroth Nambiar R/o VILLA NO 54, ROYAL SUNNYVALE KAMMSANDRA KASABA, BENGALURU RURAL, PINCODE 562106, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to Abhinav Chandroth

I, MUDDAPATI RAVICHANDRA Residing at D.No. 5/181, Kammappalyam Street, Kothacheruvu Village and Mandalam, Sri Sathya Sai Dist, Andhra Pradesh- 515133 have changed my minor daughter's name from M.G.NAPIKA CHOWDARY TO MUDDAPATI GNAPIKA and in her school record my name is mentioned as RAVI CHANDRA instead of MUDDAPATI RAVICHANDRA and my wife name is mentioned as KAVITHA ANDRA instead of ANDRA KAVITHA vide affidavit dated 25-09-2025 before Notary C.V.Ramanappa Penukonda



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I Kanchan Ajay Shamlal Achpal Alias Kanchan Ajay Achpal W/O, Ajay Shamlal Achpal R/o No 46, 5th Main, 10th Cross, 12th Block, Kumara Park West, Bangalore - 560020. Karnataka have changed my name to Kanchan Achpal.

I, Bhuvana Gowdaiahnadoddi Chikkegowda R/o 1243, 3rd block, Ullan main Rd, Sir MV Lyt, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Bhuvana Gowda Chikke. Affidavit Dt.29/10/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luur

I, Tabassum M Hanif Mother R/o # 3/5 Flat No 102, Blue Orchid Apt, Mousque Road Cross, Fraser Town, Bengaluru 560005 Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Mohammed Iqbal Hanif to Mohammed Iqbal for All Purposes

I, Nityanand Channur, S/o Mallappa Channur, 37 Years, Address: Chatra Road, Neharu Nagar, Byadgi-581106, Haveri, Karnataka have changed my name from Nityanand Channur to Nityanand Mallappa Channur vide Affidavit N u m b e r I N - KA79726408123798X, dated 28-10-2025, before Notary S.N. MADHU.

I Upakara Mary Veda Muthu Paul Raj Alias Upakara Mary Vedamuthu Paulraj W/O, Pradeep Kale R/o Sai Govind Residence, Flat No 101, No 141/1, Flower Garden Road, Near Hanuman Temple, Babusapalya, Bangalore - 560043. Karnataka have changed my name to Upakara Mary.

I, Ammayamma W/o Krishnappa Doddamane R/o 14 2nd Main Road Marenahalli Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560040 Have Changed My Name to Ammayamma for All Purposes.

I, Ganpa Billava S/o Venkata Poojari R/o 3/25, Nada, Chikkalli, Kundapura, Udipi 576230 have changed my name to Ganesh V Poojari for all purposes.

I Shaurya Singh R/o A 101 mantri serenity , Kanakapura main road , near doddakalasangra metro station , Bangalore -560062 have changed my name to Shaurya Singh

I Jayalaxmi Nayak W/O, Prabhakar Narayan Nayak R/o Devamma Nilaya, House No 67, Dollars Colony, Hig, Rmv 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094. Karnataka have changed my name to Jayalaxmi Prabhakar Nayak.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V.S. Gaanashree (Vishwanath. Suma. Gaanashree) D/o Vishwanath and Suma, Aged about 18 years, R/at Honnasethalli Village, Jinnahalli Post, Channarayapattana Town, Hasan District - 573124, have changed my name as Gaanashree.V.S (Gaanashree. Vishwanath. Suma) for all future purpose, vide affidavit dated 28-10-2025 Sworn before Notary Sri. A.M.Muralidhar, M.G. Road, Upstairs, Nanjundeshwara Complex, Srinivasapura Town, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District.

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DEC: 4 JAN: 8, 22 FEB: 5, 19

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DUBAI 5 DAYS NOV: 4 DEC: 1, 9 JAN: 6, 20

BHUTAN 8 DAYS NOV: 18

SRI LANKA 7 DAYS NOV: 15, 29 DEC: 8, 15

BALI 7 DAYS DEC: 6

HONG KONG MACAU SHENZHEN 7 DAYS FEB: 10 MAR: 15

JAPAN CHERRY BLOSSOM 8 DAYS MAR: 26

CHINA (SHANGHAI BEIJING XI'AN) 9 DAYS APR: 4

ANDAMAN 6 DAYS NOV: 12, 26 DEC: 5, 15

SMALL DEMANDS, BIG CHANGE

Deepika has always stood for better working conditions for film's cast and crew

Deepika Padukone is at the centre of an 8-hour shift debate in the film industry. After stepping away from two major films, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Spirit' and Nag Ashwin's 'Kalki 2898 AD' sequel, the actor faced massive trolling for reportedly demanding shorter work hours.

But what many don't realise is that Deepika Padukone's stand isn't new. Long before this controversy, the 'Om Shanti Om' star had already spoken about the need for fixed working hours, overtime pay, healthy food, and mental health support for crew members.

Back in 2022, in an interview with Film Companion, the 'Om Shanti Om' actress strongly emphasised the need to fix working hours, especially for film crews, and spoke about compensating them for extra time spent on set. She said, "I will begin with the hours that we work, especially for the crew. There is this sense that if you make people work extra work over time and continuously, you get it done faster. My thinking is the exact opposite, if

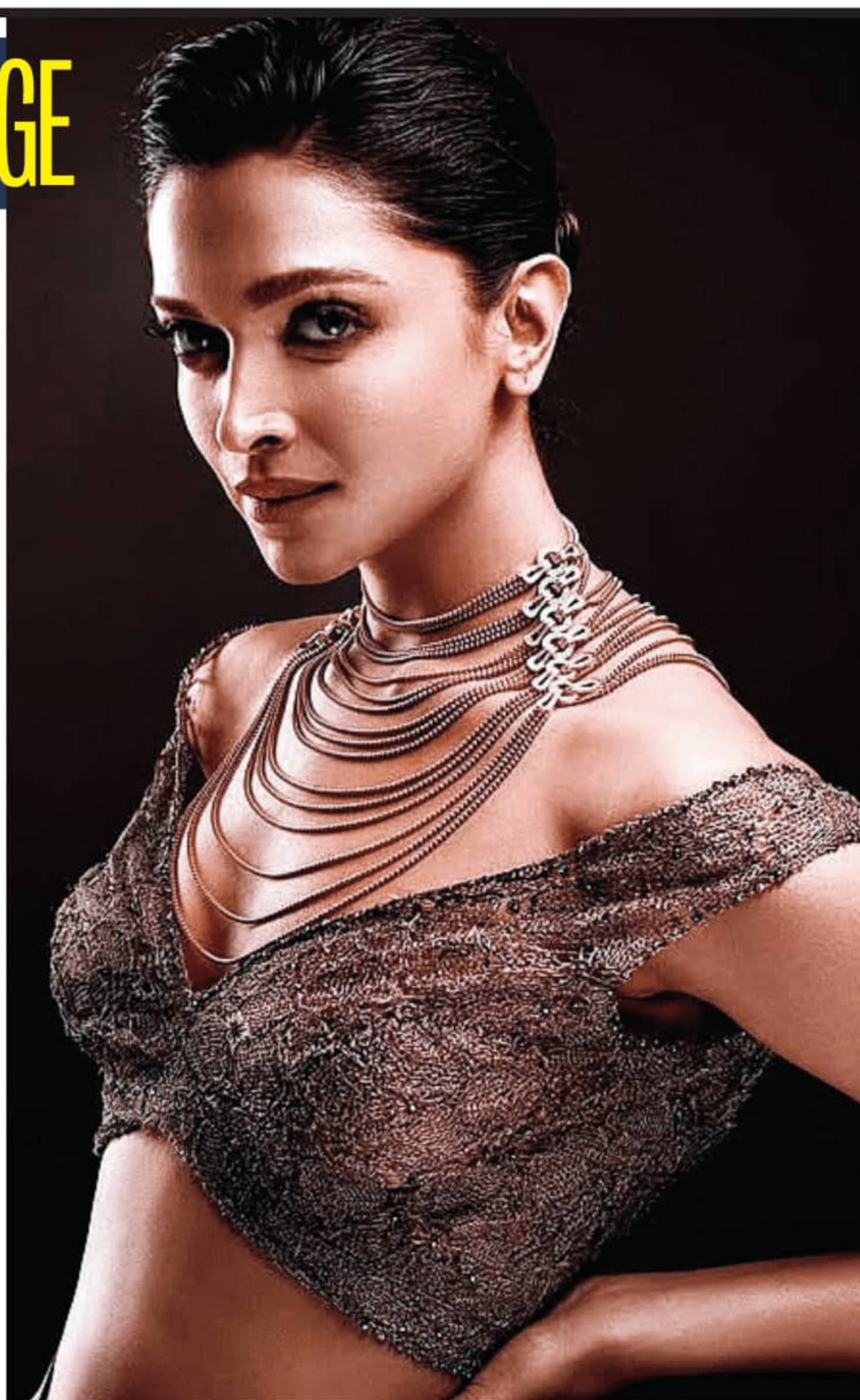
you give people enough downtime and rest, they come back with better energy. That helps them work faster, and the quality of the output is far better. One thing I could do differently is this."

The 'Chennai Express' actress also spoke about how crew members should be fairly paid for the extra hours they work. She explained, "Step 2 is to be compensated for overtime. Actors still feel it is my film at the end of the day... Actors, at the end of the day, are going to walk away with the awards and the rewards, and so do the directors and everyone above board. But I think the crew come in much earlier and they leave much later. So, there would be some days where you would do overtime and some technical issues or something else might happen, but then we need to find a mechanism that they are at least compensated for the overtime, on an hourly basis."

The 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani', further talked about the importance of serving good, healthy food to the crew, calling it a small but meaningful step.

—ETimes

If you give people enough downtime and rest, they come back with better energy and work faster



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
 Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique publicity



The team of Congratulations Brother is doing all it can to reach out to more audiences across the state. They have chalked out a plan to meet audiences from Bidar to Chamarajanagar and promote the movie that is scheduled to arrive in theaters on November 21. The Rakshith Nag-Sanjana Das starrer has created a buzz ever since it went on the floors. A special mobile van will promote the movie across the state. The team is expected to interact with people at all district headquarters.

The movie is bankrolled by Prashanth Kallur while Harish Reddy is the co-producer. Prathap Gandharva has handled the megaphone while Hari Santosh is the creative head. The publicity van was flagged off by Kannada activist Sa Ra Govindu at Veeresh Theater recently. "I am aware of Hari Santosh's hard work and dedication. I wish the team success," said Sa Ra Govindu.

Hari Santosh said all the post-production works are completed.

Teaser unveiled

The team of Varna arranged the film's teaser in the city recently. Varna is Arjun Yogi's fifth film as a hero. The teaser was unveiled by Varshan Chaudhary, the son of producer Mallineni Naveen Chaudhary. Deva Sharma has handled the megaphone for this movie.

Sharma said the verse – Karmanye Vadhikaraste - of Bhagavad Gita is the inspiration for the movie. He said while the original plan was to make a short film, producer Mallineni Naveen Chaudhary insisted that he make a feature film. "The producer liked the script. I thank the producer for his encouragement," said Sharma.

He said Arjun Yogi plays the lead while Bhavya Gowda is paired opposite him. "Lankesh Ravana plays the villain. We are planning to launch the movie's trailer and audio shortly," he said.

Chaudhary appreciated Sharma for his dedication.

Arjun debuted in Sandalwood with Sanjeyalli Aralida Hoovu a decade ago. "Varna is my fifth movie as a hero. Deva Sharma narrated the script of this movie to me four years ago but the movie did not go to floors. I play a village youth who can go to any extent to punish those guilty of wrong-doing," Arjun said.



'Respect the dancer'

Diljit Dosanjh's new album 'Aura' features Manushi Chhillar in the song 'Kufar', where she caught the audience's eye. Recently, both Manushi and Diljit have come under fire for a scene in the song that shows a woman's legs while the lyrics mention "Jannat De Darwaze".

Critics have called the shot inappropriate, prompting Manushi to address the backlash.

Taking to X, Manushi shared, "Not mine #iyyk... But can we please not disrespect the dancer who was simply doing her job. Diljit had recently addressed the buzz surrounding the viral scene in a recent Instagram live. He casually remarked, "Bro, I was just standing there... I didn't even know what was going on around me!" Manushi described the experience of filming the music video as "one of the most spontaneous and memorable moments" in her professional journey.

ETimes

Key role

Actor Claire Foy will be seen in a key role in ace director Danny Boyle's 'Ink'. The project, which also features Jack O'Connell and Guy Pearce in Ink, revolves around the rise of the Rupert Murdoch empire.

The film is based on the Tony-nominated play by multi-Olivier award-winning playwright and screenwriter James Graham. Graham has written the screenplay with production now underway, as per Deadline.

The film is an explosive cinematic rollercoaster about a group of visionaries and misfits who had an idea for a new kind of news --

one that would give the people what they want and would change the face of the world we live in today.

James Graham, who penned the play, has adapted the screenplay with plans to shoot this October. Pearce will portray Rupert Murdoch, while O'Connell takes on the role of Larry Lamb, the editor Murdoch appointed to lead The Sun after acquiring it in 1969. Foy will play an ambitious editor who joins the paper and works closely with Lamb.

—ANI



Enough with the pan-India label

Priyamani recently reacted to the current labelling of actors with the term 'pan-India actors' in the industry. According to her, there are actors from both sides who have worked across languages.

In conversation with Hindustan Times, Priyamani said, "I think we should stop using the term pan-India. We're all Indian at the end of the day. What is this pan-India? I don't understand. You get work in other industries, and that's a good thing — but you don't call someone a 'regional actor' when they come from Bollywood to the South. For years, actors

from both sides have worked across languages. Why are we suddenly labelling people now?"

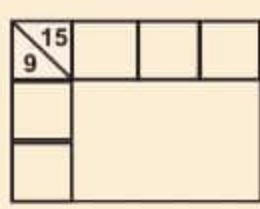
Elaborating further, she pointed out at the fact that for decades now, actors like Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Prakash Raj, Dhanush, and others have been working across languages without ever being tagged as pan-India actors. According to her they were simply known as Indian actors. "It doesn't matter which language we work in — accept us for who we are and for the characters we play. This sudden trend of actors wanting to overly use the term is funny," she added.

—ETimes



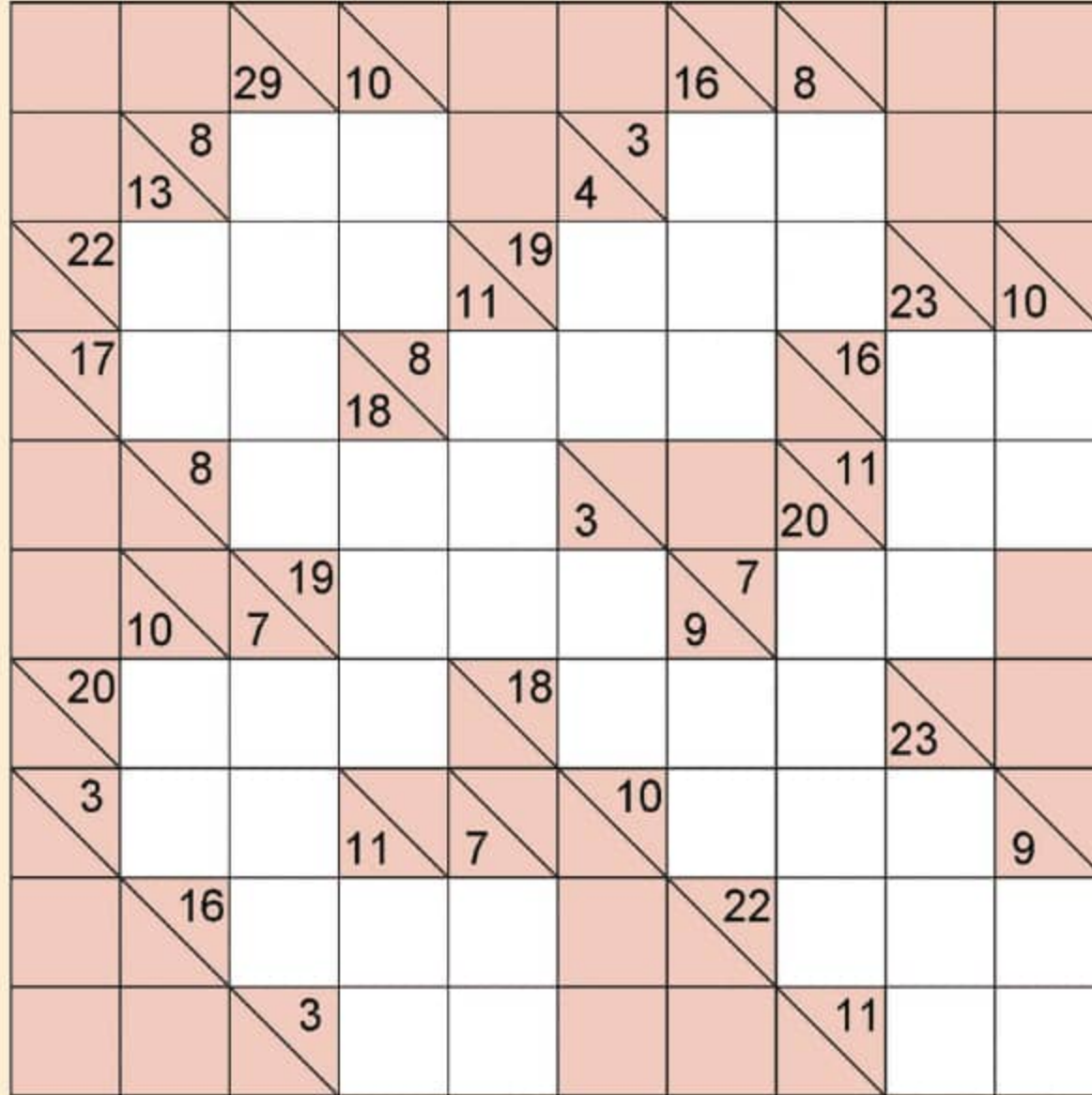
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

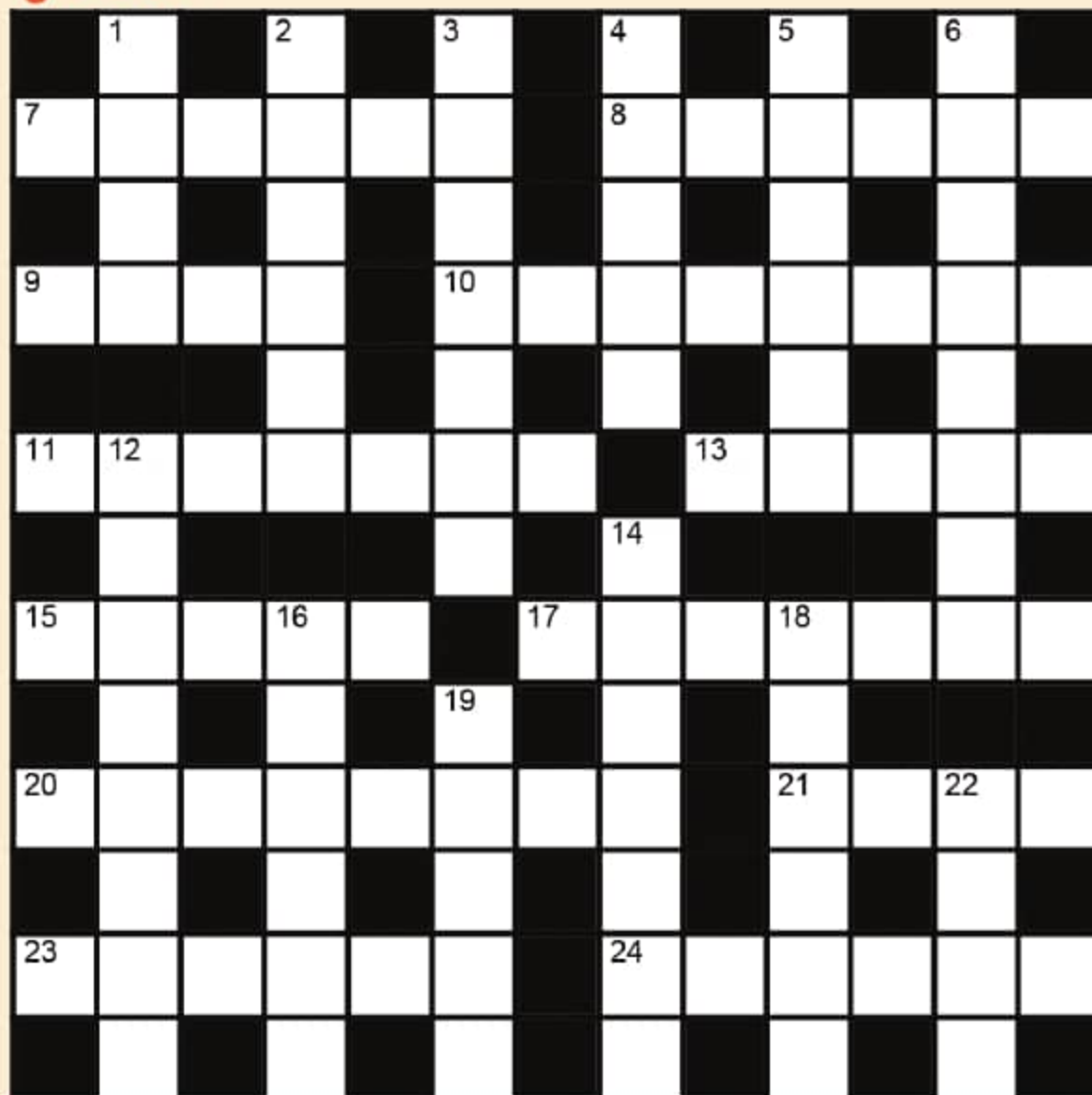


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Nova ____ : Canadian province? (6)
- 8 Coquettes (6)
- 9 Expensive (4)
- 10 A shrew (8)
- 11 Put out again (7)
- 13 Leaps, moves up off the ground (5)
- 15 Apart or aloof, distant (5)
- 17 They grind corn and give us flour (7)
- 20 Chappati made out of rice (4,4)
- 21 Ballot (4)
- 23 Clambered up (6)
- 24 Positive or cheerful (6)

DOWN

- 1 Suffer pain (4)
- 2 Shops (6)
- 3 Complete failure (4-3)
- 4 Blazing (5)
- 5 Surroundings (6)
- 6 Worker in stables (8)
- 12 Hide safely? (8)
- 14 Least (7)
- 16 Practice sessions (6)
- 18 Monastery washbasin (6)
- 19 Emotional states (5)
- 22 Sports group (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G
 CDGIG'F WY SYEWC EW
 ZRIQEW CDG DNGJDC EV
 QYR'IG TYEWT CY SRC RS N
 ONIXGI YW CDG FECC.



Linemaro

Sorry, I can't hold on... I've already fallen for you.



Mindchow

What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul



Joke of the day

Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?
 A: Because he was always spotted.

Loop

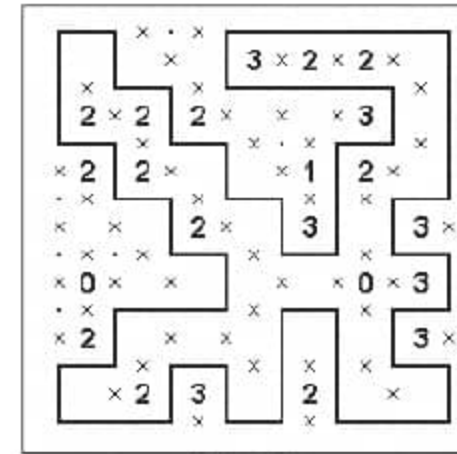
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

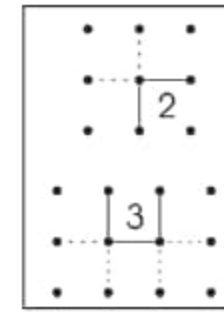
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

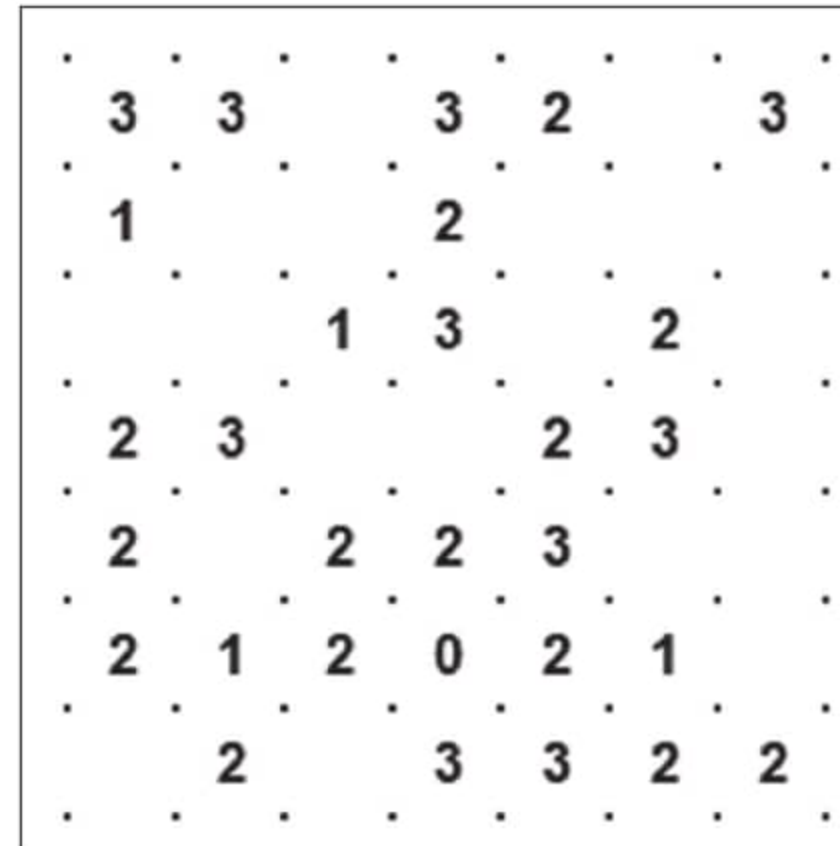
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



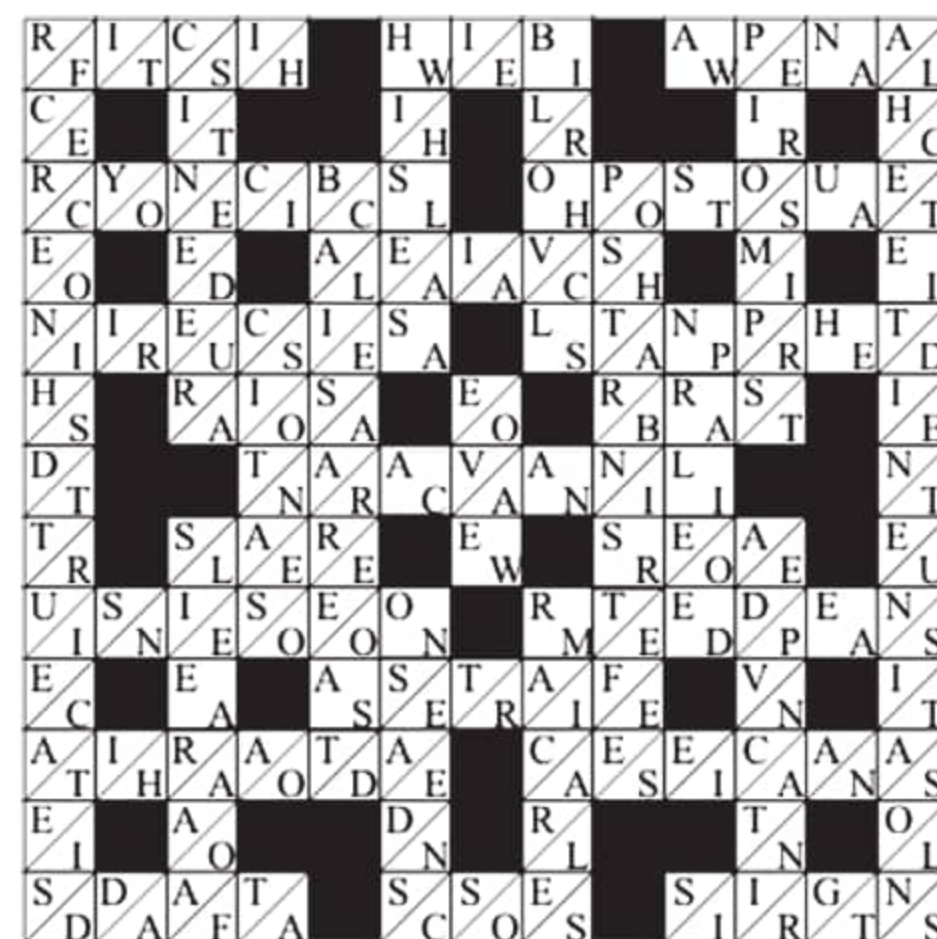
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



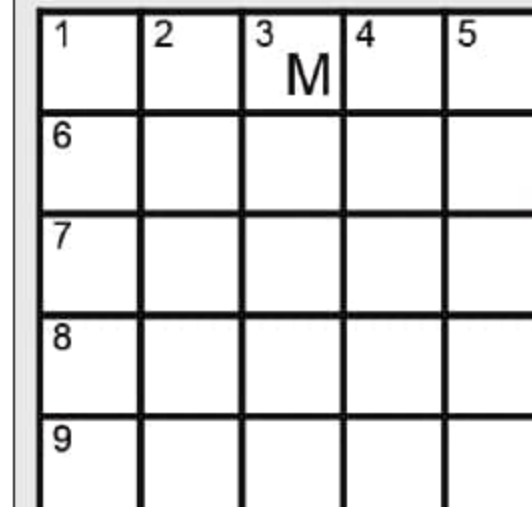
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

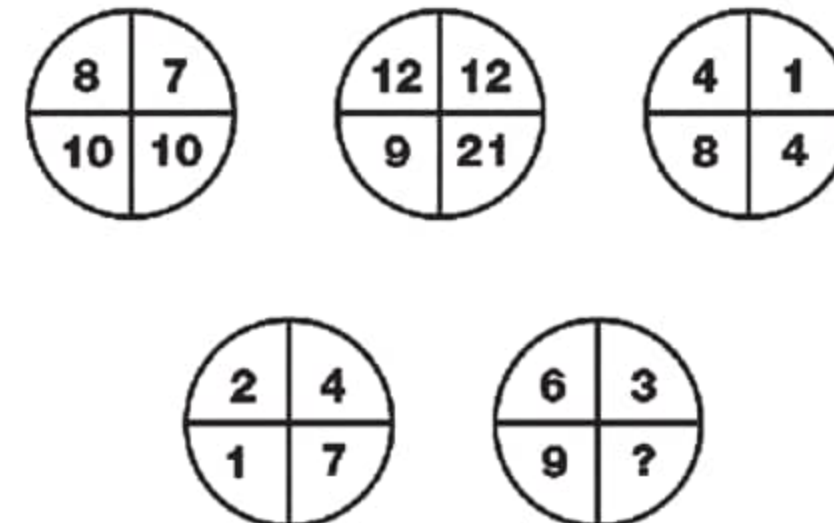
- 1 Manas; 6 Inter;
- 7 I Naga; 8 So eon;
- 9 Luges

DOWN

- 1 Angst; 2 Goral;
- 3 Ma IOU; 4 Sane I;
- 5 N seen

Mensapuzzle

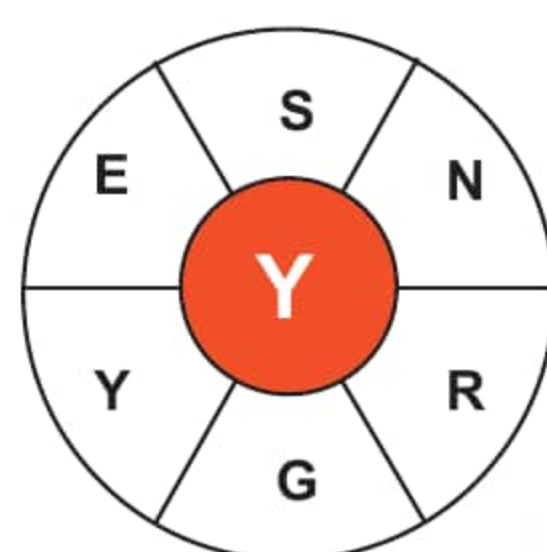
Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



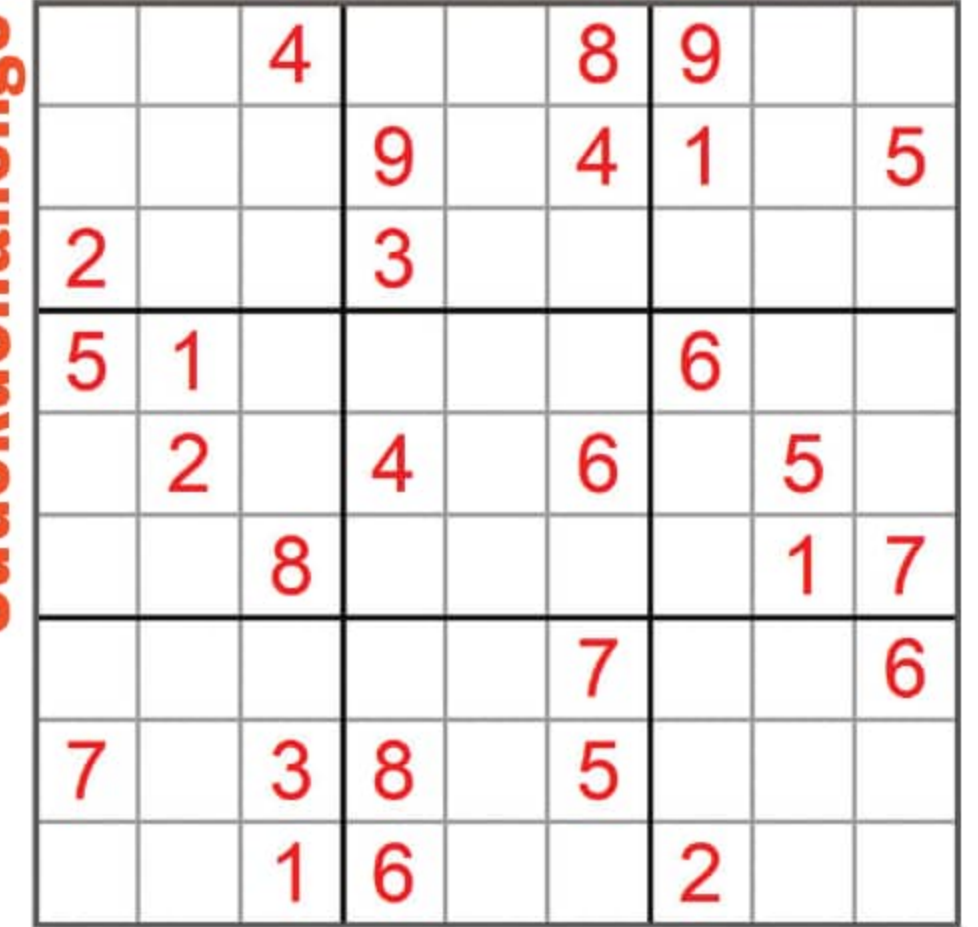
Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

6 8 9 9 = 14

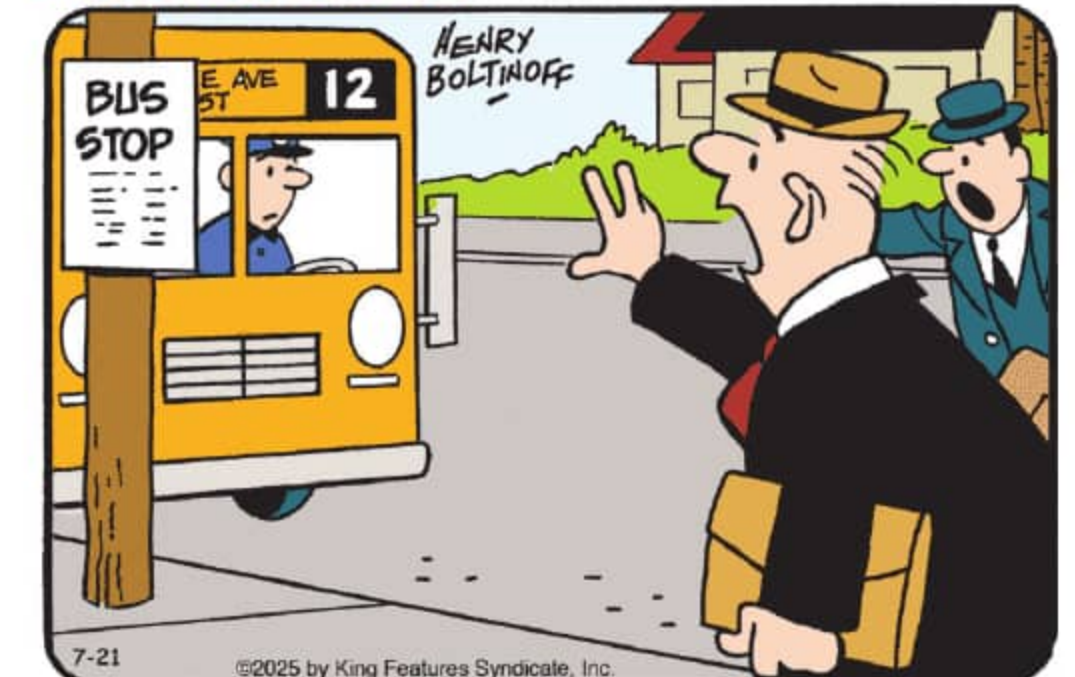
Medium

2 7 9 9 = 2

Hard

3 8 8 9 = 22

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer; 2. Mouth is not open as wide; 3. Hat is different; 4. Ear is different; 5. Steering wheel is moved; 6. Tie is missing.

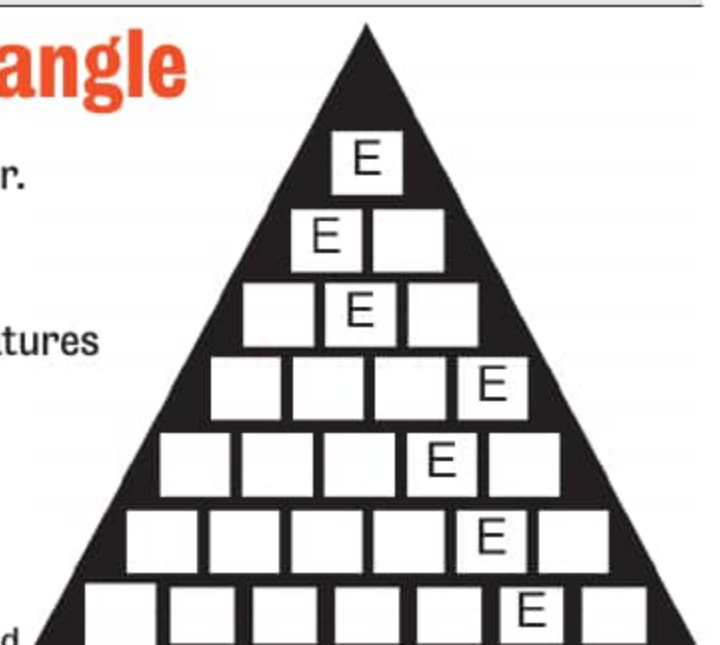
Riddler

Gretchen just returned from the beach, and told her brother Henry that she found two interesting types of shells. He asked what they were, and she answered with these rebuses: LL LL AA CC SS 1. Nice Naughty Nice Naughty 2. Naughty Nice Naughty Nice 3. Nice Nice Nice Nice

Alpha triangle

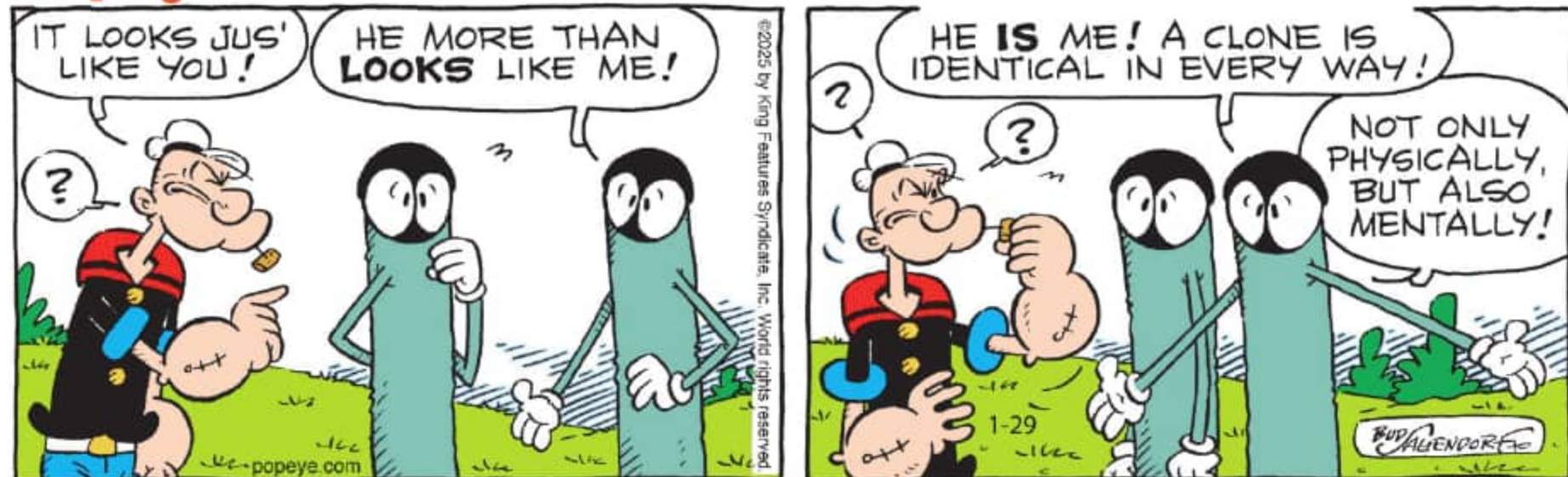
- 1 Second vowel
- 2 For example, abbr.
- 3 Lower limb
- 4 High wind
- 5 Deli item
- 6 Architectural features
- 7 Bracelets

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



COMICS

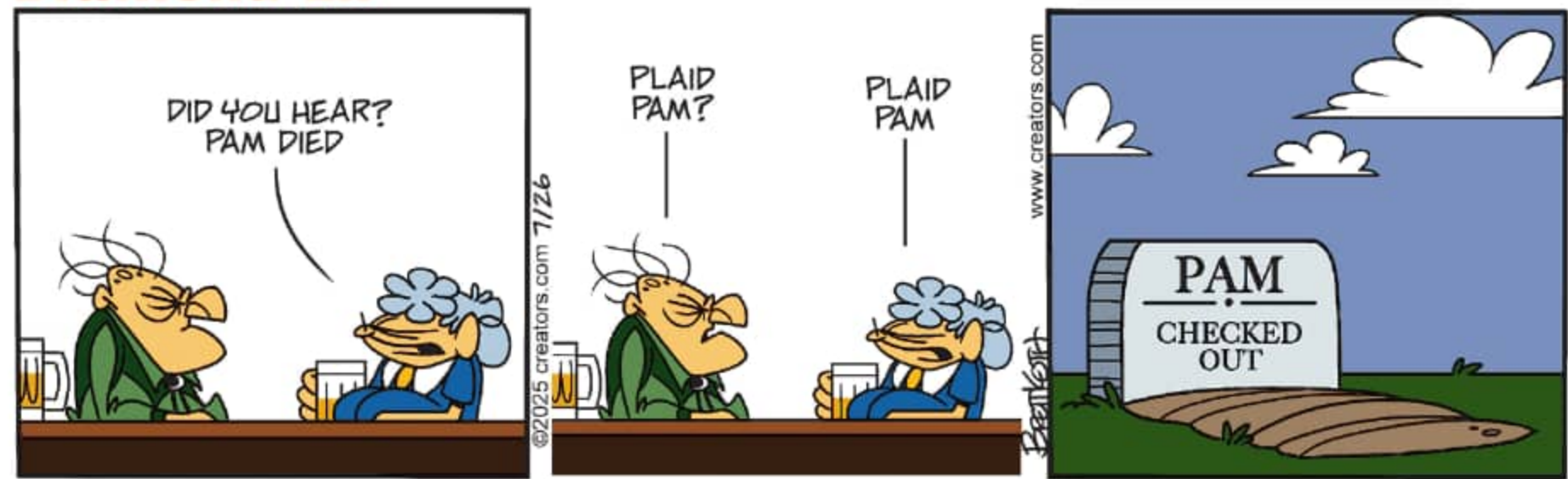
Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft

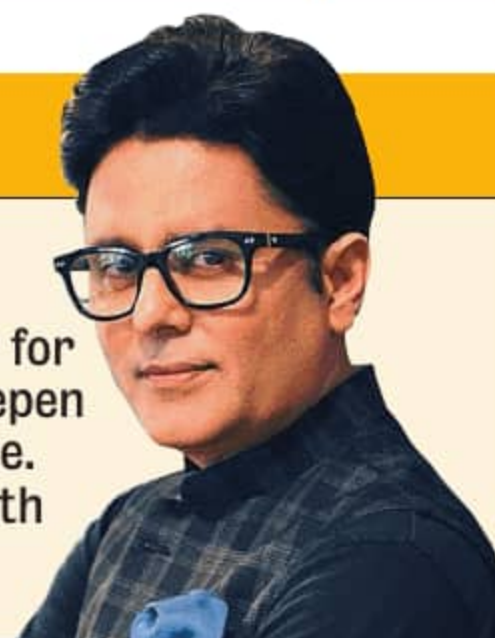


Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Harmony and balance guide your year. Professional life brings recognition for thoughtful effort. Finances improve with steady planning. Relationships deepen through kindness and understanding. Creativity sparks joy and confidence. Health benefits from balance in body and mind. Friendships strengthen with laughter. By year's end, you'll feel content, accomplished, and grateful.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Career brings significant changes today. Focus on building teamwork for long-term success. Loved ones seek extra attention. Financial losses may reverse into gains. Mixed emotions highlight both opportunities and challenges ahead.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Anger fades as peace returns. Confide in trusted friends for relief. Family seeks closeness, especially parents. Higher education opportunities open. Creativity calls strongly—embrace new paths with openness and curiosity.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Health concerns ease. Work flows smoothly, earning colleagues' respect. Family bonds strengthen, especially with siblings. Students should guard against distractions, dedicating extra focus to studies.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Income-enhancing ideas inspire you. Sports or physical activity attract renewed interest, energising you. Children's health, particularly digestion, requires care. Focus on balance—nurturing wellbeing alongside creativity.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Uncertainty may slow decisions at work. Accept help from subordinates. At home, enjoy your partner's thoughtful surprises. Children's education improves, and financial gains flow steadily.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Sibling issues require attention today. Work feels overwhelming, so delegate where possible. Children may resist your perspective, creating friction. Maintain patience, balancing family and professional challenges thoughtfully.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

A positive mindset helps resolve workplace challenges. Impatience may rise, but remain calm. Singles may feel lonely today. Monitor finances carefully, as expected profits risk slipping unexpectedly into avoidable losses.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Networking boosts business success today. Health improvements uplift your family. Singles attract admiration, strengthening romantic potential. Practise yoga for balance, grounding energy, and maintaining calm.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Organisational skills shine, aiding office improvements. At home, your connection with your partner deepens. Family health matters resolve positively. Balance responsibilities with action.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Peace surrounds you at work and home. Colleagues cooperate, and family understands. Couples improve communication. Today's balance between harmony, growth, and opportunity strengthens both your personal and professional life.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Business prospers with new clients. Singles find promising matches. Job seekers secure well-paying opportunities. Travel may arise but postpone your plans. Focus on building stable foundations in your career and relationships.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

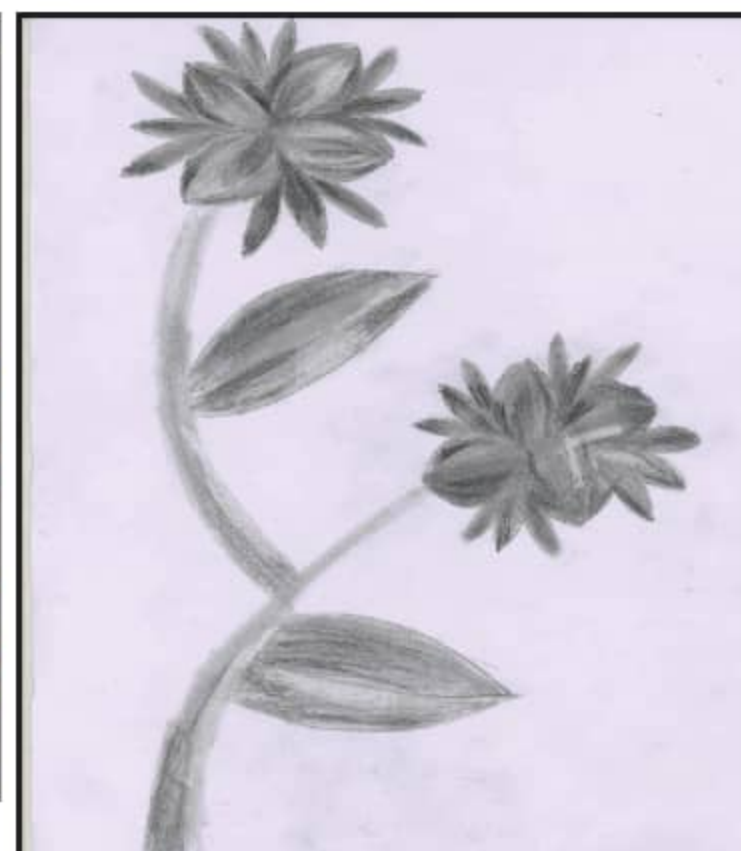
Business success grows through new partnerships. Family wedding preparations or short travel may arise. Avoid large gatherings. Meditation nurtures spiritual peace.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ganga, 12 years, Kaggadasapura Govt school



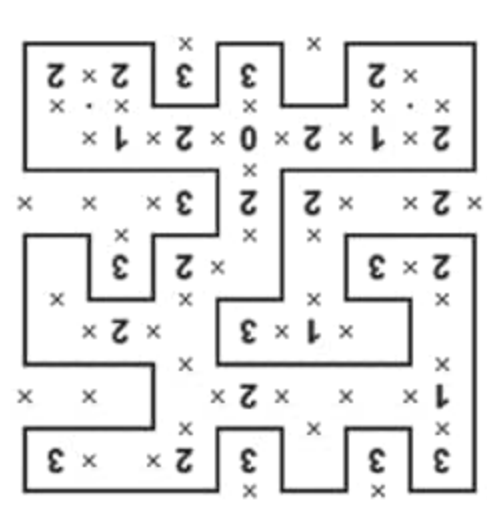
Naina Akshay Girish, 11 years, NAFL School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



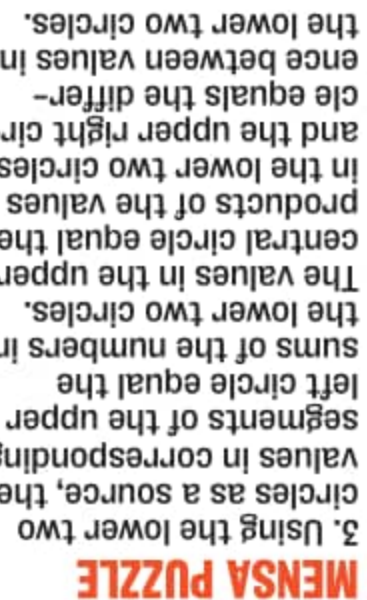
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



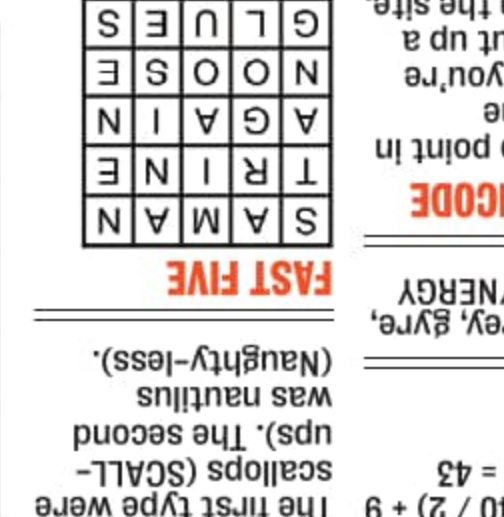
MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



RIDDLER



SOLVE IN 1M

Fans throng Puneeth Rajkumar's samadhi



Family, followers pay heartfelt tributes on star's death anniversary

Thousands of fans gathered in Bengaluru on Wednesday to mark the death anniversary of Kannada cinema's beloved icon, Puneeth Rajkumar, fondly known as Appu. The day was filled with emotional tributes, community service, and acts of remembrance

that reflected the actor's enduring influence and compassionate legacy. Early in the morning, Puneeth's family, including his wife

Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, daughters, brothers Dr. Shivarajkumar and Raghavendra Rajkumar, along with their families, visited Puneeth's Samadhi at Kanteerava Studio and offered floral tributes. The family spent quiet moments in prayer as fans lined up in long queues to pay their respects to their beloved star.

Police made special arrangements to manage the heavy crowd that continued to pour in throughout the day. Several fans were seen holding photos of Puneeth, chanting his name, and recalling his humility and generosity. Across the city, residents and fan associations organised a series of welfare activities in memory of the late actor. Many groups conducted blood donation drives, annadanams

(free food distribution), and other charitable initiatives — gestures inspired by Puneeth's commitment to social causes. "Appu may not be with us physically, but his kindness lives on through every act of goodness inspired by him. Even years after his passing, Puneeth Rajkumar continues to unite people through love, humanity, and the spirit of giving that defined his life and legacy," said a volunteer from a blood donation camp in Bhuvaneshwarinagar.

Puneeth's samadhi in Kanteerava Stadium was beautifully decorated with flowers and other embellishments, and fans began arriving in large numbers from across the state since Tuesday midnight. They stood in long queues and paid their respects to their favourite star with tearful eyes. Many fans also visited the samadhi of Puneeth's father, Kannada film legend Dr. Rajkumar, located within the same premises.

Appu was one of the most beloved and celebrated actors in the Kannada film industry. Born on March 17, 1975, he was the youngest son of the legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar and Parvathamma Rajkumar. Starting his career as a child artist, Puneeth won the National Film Award for Best Child Artist for his performance in 'Bettada Hoovu' (1985). —BMB



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